

A Narrative of an ill favoured attempt to pervert the Duke of Gloucester, extracted out of divers letters from France.

Paris, Novem. 7. 1654.

Sir,

THere are newly come to my notice some untoward passages, wherby one of our great Pledges hath been exposed to the hazard of his Religion; which my Pen is very loth to impart, were it not for prevention, lest being impossible to be concealed in *England*, it might be represented by others either more desperate, or more faulty than yet it is in truth.

The King when hee went away from hence was over-influenced by his mother to leave the Duke of *Glocester* with her, which to content her in some things, whom hee could not please in divers others, he consented to grant her that request, upon promise that she would not force him to change his Religion, and so conditions of liberty of prayers, &c. were established. But of late they doe (some say by the French Courts instigation) presse it very hard, and even professe an attempt of it. Mr *Mountagu* (Lord *Abbot* of *Nanteuil &c*) and his Instruments have gotten him, under pretence of weaning him from young French gallants company (that on occasion of being in the same *Academie* were indeed grown but too kinde to him) to *Pontoise*, and after a weeks stay there, his Tutor comming on businesse to *Paris* for one night, (whether they had designed this absence of his, or onely did make use of it, I cannot tell) they all set upon him with motives Spirituall and Temporall to become a Roman Catholicke; the Spirituall ones such as the subject would afford

detained our Hempen ware, to send it by messengers of his own.

15. VWhether the Parliament may not be damn'd, notwithstanding the A & of Indemnity.

16. VWhether a Parliament-man should not take the upper hand of the Devill when they sit next in Council, since he hath learned as much of him.

17. VWhether we ought not to lament on the 30. of *January*, as well as to give thanks on the 5. of *November*.

18. VWhether it was not reason for Major-Generall *Harrison* to marry his wife, having before broach'd the barrel.

FINIS.



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ford, little and many; more trusting on number than weight; he and (his only help then) Mr. *Griffin*, answered with the best skill they had, and with much more resolution and metall both of them than you can imagine : and rejected the Temporall ones with contempt, and with the danger of incurring the Kings displeasure, who had both given him a charge, and engaged his Mother, that there should bee no change in Religion laboured for. But to both the Duke added a complaint, that they should offer to assault him, with either of those considerations in the absence of his Tutor, who was fittest to judge of their proposalls.

When hee came therefore the shock was renew'd, and sustained so firmly, that the stay at *Pontoyse* was sooner ended than wee hoped for. To our great content we see our yong Prince again frequent and constant at the same devotions with us, but complaining much hee should bee troubled by his Fathers and Brothers subjects, especially to become of another Religion, than they and his conscience directed him to keepe to.

But the Queene now must appeare to own the thing, and to profess that she cannot but labour to have her son shew'd the right way to Heaven ; and though shee promised hee should not bee forced by her, yet to have that way proposed to him shee found requisite : and since Mr. *Lovell* (his Tutor) had expressed hee could not, nor must not see him so assaulted, and therefore press'd the forbearance of such discourses in the Dukes presence, being ready to satisfie any one himselfe; she would put him into another Governors hands, for a while at least, and so under Mr. *Mountagus* wing hee is carried to Mr. *Crofts* house, being contrary to his owne earnest entreaty hurried away on Saturday, and not suffer'd to stay till Monday, though he pleaded hard for it upon want of a warme coat, and there he must tarry till Monday seven-night

night after. Meanwhile no body with him that might help his resolution save Mr. *Griffin* of his Bed-chamber: a yong Gentleman, though an old servant of his (once my Lord of *Manchesters* Page) who is indeed zealous against their design, even with resolution to quit the service, if any change should happen; but his yeares and breeding make him not invincible as to himselfe, and if hee yield any considerable assistance to his Master, must bee left behind too, the next remoove at least.

They have sent notice of these straights to the King and Duke of *Yorke* long since, but t'is carefully provided that the Duke of *Yorke* must not come home yet, and when he does prepare to come, if they cannot find themselves Conquerors and secure, they will (rather than hazard the loss of this Prey) not scruple to encloystre him from any Heretikes view whatsoever.

In such a case as this, you cannot presume enough of the zeale and indignation the little Prince ha's against his Usage heere, against the wrong done him by the Councell that left him in such dangerous hands, against every obtruded Servant of that pack about him, against his new Governor, himself crossing him in divers things, even of lesser moment, as if hee were the only English, whom experience hath taught, how narrowly men ought to watch against Usurpation; in fine, hee apprehends his danger seriously, and the honour of resisting most nobly and heroically, both for resolution of Endeavour, and for confidence of Successe: that and the odds of the cause, and Gods power to perfect praise *ex ore infantium*, is almost the only hopes we have.

Let us have yours, and all good Protestants Prayers for this Confessor, who as he sees (unmov'd) an evident want of all things fit for a Gentleman of better sort, flighted of the French Court, his Mothers Frowne and endless importunity

tunity before him, if hee be not perverted: So I doubt no is now under the *Mew-Discipline*, and the *Manage* of their Spirituall, or rather Ecclesiasticall *Faulconers*, who will not ever cease *watching & dieting*, &c. and whatever else is necessary to bring this *yong Eaglet* to *stoop and vaile*, and to do all things at their *Lewre*, even to take *Hood* too, if need bee. For they that make such a Court-worke of every little childes, and discontented debauch'd servants conversion, will spare none of their little or great Arts to get this Noble Bird of so Royall a *wing*, as being the only one of that *Aire* they hope for now, having lost so much pains on the two former, and so fit to *awe* and *dare* lesser Birds by; of which there are Wagers layd of no few or mean ones already.

I foresaw this unmeasur'd excursion before hand, and was therefore so loth to write at all: and the truth is, I can neither *scribere*, nor *non scribere*, til this *Crisis* be over. Though I foresee what news this will be in *Gath*, furnishing the Parliament with a ready answer, when the next bold man asks, What have the poor Gentlemen done abroad? And there are sagacious souls that would never understand till now the reason why the Parliament decreed to send him abroad, ere he was out-grown the danger of perversion. But certainly they that pretend to have true Protestant hearts, and will for either fear or love of money, suffer the *Defenders of their Faith*, to be led into the *wilderness* of want, and prepare them with *hunger* for the *Devils temptations* of *Turning any stone to get Bread*, doe deserve the lash of persecution, which in time may justly light upon them, if God and they doe not timely prevent it.

Paris, 25. Novemb. 1654.

By former Letters you may perceive how they prevailed with the Queene to take the Duke out of his Tutors hands, hurrying him first to *Pontoyse*, and then to Mr. *Crofts* house.
During

During which, as fully as they possess'd him, every houre and much less parts of the day, one or other of the *Bees* ever humming about him; yet at night hee had one that lay in his Bed-chamber, who entertain'd him more to his hearts desire, and (like *Penelope's Web*) unspun (as well as they could two little yong things some few years above thirty between them) what ever had past in publique, or the day before.

And indeed they did well to spend and improve their nights in this manner; for when once they were up (as his Grandfather said of my Lord of *Carlisle*, he was in perpetuall torments, Eatings, Huntings, Dancings, Visits, Journeys, Entertainments of Males and Females; so) our little Duke was continually tortur'd with Arguments finely imbelish'd with, True Church, Roman Catholick Church; To be of the King of *France*, - his Mothers Religion: Being made a Cardinall, To become that King which must restore what *Henry 8.* took away, and the appendices.

However he was not so strictly lookt unto at first, but that there might bee now and then stolen into his hand a Confortatory Letter from his Friends at *Paris*; but these shifts were to last but for a while: A terrible Ferule was polish'd for him, and such a one, as the awe of it kept him from flat rejecting and affronting his new Governor *Mountagu*, lest he being thoroughly vex'd, might resigne him up into the Jesuits hands; to whose College the Duke knew himselfe destin'd within few dayes, even by Violence it selfe, if relief came not from *Germany*.

And now when all his stock of Replies (which my Friend tels me, were hugely ingenious, and indeed solid, such as one would say, could not bee in those yeares but *Ex traduce*) were spent, and his last refuge of peremptory silence, and upbraiding them for pressing their Sophismes on such a one as he was, while the Deane his Tutor and friends were de-

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clin'd basely, grew stale helps, behold a grave friend of his Fathers, Sir G. R. comes with a Letter in his pocket from the King; and was indeed admitted to see him, and talke with him before witness, but so far from possibility of privacy, that hee was faine to leave the Letter behind him to bee conveyed at an opportuner occasion into his hand. That Letter, saies my Intelligencer, begins and ends so Brother-like, so Christian-like, so King-like, that hee hath set my longing on fire to hear it: 'tis promis'd me I shall, and when I doe, I shall be carefull to present you with that Jewell.

It puts him in minde of the strict command hee left with him at parting; of the monstrous injury to his conscience; to his state; to his Family; the vanity of their Motives, the emptiness of their promises; the more Eligibleness of any degree of suffering; Gods promises, whose love he must reckon to lose as well as his so loving a Brothers, if he were perverted by any inticings whatsoever: And to make all he said more valuable; that he would reflect on their dead Fathers last charge, which he solemnly gave him, with the entaile of his blessing annexed.

In fine, he closed his instructions with that which would have been severe enough alone; That if he either chang'd his Religion, or put himselfe into the *Jesuites* College, he had the last letter from him, and must never look to see *England* or his Face again: And that if (which God forbid) their business miscarried, the whole ruining of their Familie, and all the Nations too, must lay the mischiefe at his doore as the great Cause of it.

Now no sooner had he read this Threatning Comforter, but he hugg'd it in his Bosome, and with all possible speed transcrib'd a Copie of it for his Mother, sending it forthwith to her; and begging her leave to come to *Paris*, both upon those commands of the King, and upon the newes of his Brothers

Brothers being come from the Army. Of this the Answer was, she could not cease wishing his so great and eternall good; but she would not force him; but wish'd him to hearken to what *Mr. Mountagu* should further deliver unto him: & that was, that he would bee willing to go to the *Jesuites* College however, where hee should have strange freedome in every thing. But all would not perswade on the one side, nor secure on the other, till most welcomely about ten dayes since, my Lord of *Ormond* came from *Germanie* with letters, and instructions to boot; to second with a duplicate, and new Charges by word of mouth, the force of the former Letters. His business (namely, the setting free of this yong Prince,) was of high concernment, else so great a person would never have been spar'd from his Master at such a time, in so ill a season of weather, to take so long and dangerous a Voyage, just upon the dissolving of the Armies, who had beset all wayes, and robb'd all Convoyes; and had he staid but foure dayes longer, he might as well have staid foure years, it would then have been too late to have done any good.

But now the Duke is return'd to his old Prayers, and to old Faces, to whom he tels such Stories of his Adventures, as (he sayes) has made him almost mad. But others say, have made him much wiser then a longer time and better Tutor could easily have done.

Nov. 28.

Since the Dukes return to the *Palais-Royal*, his Brothers company, and the exercise of his own Religion, he has met with many assaults: obedience to his Mother in all things possible, engaged him not to refuse whom she set over him and sent about him; and though she has promised him some respite for a while at least, in respect to his Brothers straight charge, yet she findes enow that pursue a truceless warre. How he answers all their Varietie of smooth
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and sharp Assaults, tis very prety to heare, and did not the Posts interruption give me suspition that our Letters keep not their daies to you, no more than yours to us, I should send you constantly the proceedings in the business.

But if there be not strange unnaturall carriage used, we shall enjoy his Concurrence in Communion with us as we do every day, and which will most vex them, on Sunday next at Church at the Residents house: which he is resolv'd shall not be neglected or omitted upon any perswasion whatsoever: though that be not in the number of those things which he is fortified for by the Kings Letter. For he has a serious indignation against them that have with so many wiles hindred him (indeed by plain moral Violence, which no entreaty, no policy of his could either prevent or mollifie) so many Sundayes from *Paris*; and at the Reports which were begotten betweene lying tongues and credulous eares, that he was already turn'd, upon no other ground of his giving, but bare being away from Church; which could no way be effected but by hurrying him out of Towne; nor could that be obtained of him without establishing a new Governour upon him, which thing so indirectly trenching on Religion, he could not have refused without disobeying his Mother: Yet the advantage of that, as it was really great against the poore Youth, produc'd so great a pledge to the Roman party, that the Curates in divers Churches gave thanks for his Reconciliation a Sunday or two agoe; So that they will be now exposed to disrepute of their Parishioners, and mockerie of the adversary, the first Sunday of their supposed Profelytes appearing at our Church, which is likely to kindle no small wrath amongst them, and therefore we stand in feare of some shrew'd *Crisis* between this and Sunday morning as neere as it is: I doe not meane of hazard, but of greater violence of assault.

He has been on his Visit at the *Louvre*, and past those pikes already: though both Queen and Cardinal joyntly, and both severally, have pressed him, that hee is now to obey his Mother since his Fathers death; and they cannot finde any occasion he should have to regard other directions. Here hee thought hee had most need of his Brothers Letter, which enjoyn'd him silence to any disputes: But manners would not suffer him to say nothing, and much less to say what he could have done, of the inconvenience of preferring Mothers commands before his Soveraignes: But it would have been too hot; and therefore glad he was to come off that brunt, with a general promise of dutifulness to his Mother as much as any Son in the world could or ought to use; and a protestation that it was ever a thing abhorr'd of him to harken to any Counsell to the contrary. And besides that the very getting off was a Triumph, he made great prize of their promise, that it was but for his greater good, and the advantage they should have of highlyer doing him good, that they look'd upon the hopes of his change of Religion; they knew however that they ought to look on him as a Childe of *France*, of whatsoever religion he was.

There was besides, a passage which hee was not very free of relating, yet it came out; that there had beene a promise betweene the Crownes *articled upon at the Marriage-Treaty of his Father and Mother*, that the Queen should have the bringing up of all the children till twelve years of age, in lieu and compensation of which being so notoriously violated, it was but reason and great condescention, that the third Son should be intirely committed to her disposall, especially she being in *France*. You will easily grant it out of the Sphere of his Age to reply to such high assaults: it was highly enough for his honor that hee was thought fit to bee so pleaded with; but that it wrought not with him, is a signe of
 B Gods

Gods great vigilancy over him, and a Pledge that hee ha's a Blessing for him.

In fine, all these Addresses abroad, and other renew'd at home, gave such a testimony of his firmness, that the Queen on Saturday morning tooke him apart from all his and her Servants, and very seriously bemoan'd her case with his too, in that the earnest desire of his and the whole Families good met with such difficulties, as should put her to use such verity with him. Shee could not but pity him, as wearied already with so many perswasions; and truly the tender affection she ever had for him, and had constantly shew'd to him, could not but make her selfe weary of such tedious courses: Therefore she was resolv'd to make a sudden end, and for that cause charg'd him to retire himselfe, and give one hearing more to Mr. *Mountain*, and afterwards to lay her and his words seriously to his heart, and bring her an answer full and finall ere night. What the particular Proposals she made were, may come out hereafter: At the first appearance of this intended privacy with him, hee very dexterously contrived an opportunity to speake to his Servant *Griffin*, to seek out my Lord of *Ormond* to be ready to speake with him, by then he might come from his Mother; which is a fair Omen: But the Post must not be presum'd on, &c.

Decemb. 2.

You were left I think at the state of things on Saturday morning, and was come to the charge the Queen had given him to attend her alone. The Duke had in the little Interim of clearing the room, sent *Griffin* for my Lord of *Ormond* presently to be with him, or at least so soone as the Queen had done: And it was but Prophetickall Providence; for the Queens business was of so great import as might require it well. She began with all sweetness possible, repeated the manifest signes of her great and tender affection for him, and how

how much it griev'd her that that very love it selfe should compell her to proceed now with such seeming severity: She presum'd he was weary of it, and truly so was shee too, therefore for his ease sake, shee would shorten his Time of Triall; and therefore proposing all the good she aym'd at in this designe of hers, and the Dury hee owed her, and the disability of the King to maintaine him, &c. She wish'd him to withdraw presently, and sequestering himselfe from any diversion after he had given Mr. *Mountagu* the hearing, for a while to ponder seriously what shee and hee had said, and bring her his finall answer ere night.

The Duke obey'd; for reply then he must not: Goes to his Chamber; Mr. *Mountagu* comes, presses, is refused: but after an houres Discourse, retires, begs to be sent for againe when my Lord of *Ormond* was come, within an houre; if not, hee must come of himselfe. But my Lord of *Ormond* comes, no *Mountagu* sent for, or comes for two houres. The Marques and the Duke soone resolv'd what should bee answered: spent the time onely in ordering circumstances for the manner.

After these three Discourses, it was time for a yong Prince to have a little breath, and therefore hee retires to a Lady's Chamber on the other side, where he might give his eares a little ease, and if he must heare more, that it might bee lesse materiall discourse, therefore chooses one that would beat no more upon that Theme. No sooner is hee gone, but Mr. *Mountague* comes, misses him, hunts up and downe for him, chides him for being off his station of pensivenesse, for not having sent for him.

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Sentence was no sooner pronounc'd, but executed by French haste: Out he must; and then hee that had nothing but amazement to reply with, had now a Cue to speake on, and beg the parting Blessing at least, till hee could prevaile for her pardon. It will not bee; Out hee must; and so full of Tears and Astonishment, to finde out his Brother hee goes, and they share the sorrow till Youth and Night parts them by drowfinesse.

But the Edict, that it may not seem Scenical, or *in terrorem*, goes forth to all the Officers of the House; neither to provide nor lend any Necessary either to spend, or so much as to use. While the yong Innocent slept soundly, and upon the advantage sorrow had given, long in the morning; dreaming but of one Task at most, stealing a Blessing of his Mother, either by Sisters or Brothers Intercession; or stealing at least a means of begging it ere shee went to her Monastery; or himselfe to Church, a much long'd for (and often wrangled for) contentment. But in stead of a Mother, hee is admitted to no converse on her side but of a Step-Tutor, who again solicits, aggravates the perill of his Mothers anger, knowing indeed more then the little Duke did of it. (as Causes can prophesie, and Counsellors know all that was already.) *Now was the time, if ever, sayes Mountagu: Get to her this very present instant, (almost Sermon-time,) shee has easier Proposals for you, but I cannot name them now. The Duke answers; Then will I; where ere I go, I must have not a quiet only for a while, but the exercise of my Religion; neither her Proposals, and lesse yours, promise that.*

The Coach went now by with his Mother for the Nunnery: The backside whereof made him warm: Mr. Mountague need not aggravate the sadness of the spectacle, which as appear'd afterwards, was more like the last remote View, than the child could think of. Hee answered; *Such as it is I may*

may thank you for, Sir ; and tis but reason , what my Mother sayes to me, I say to you ; I pray be sure I see you no more ; and so shew'd his back. And to the last question, *whither are you going, good Sir ?* The Duke answered (over the shoulder) *To Church.* Where hee was indeed somewhat sadder than became the cheerfullnesse of the rest of the Congregation : But ere night we all pardoned him, finding much of its cause the story which we knew not then, and besides that a great deale of Augurie which hee could expresse then know : for after Sermon hee had a (No-Sunday) thought lay on him to finde a Dinner : to the Cooks he must send ; neither Meat, Wine, Bread, Napkin , nor diet to bee had else ; so heavy, so generall the Proscription.

Yet after Evening Prayer he hop'd one interval of content, by his Mothers absence to goe see his Sister. The newes of his adventure frights her poore childe into Teares and shrikes ; and though the visitant was by his servant named a Gentleman onely, yet shee startups, and cries out, *Oh God, my Brother ! Oh me ! my Mother ! I am undone for ever ! what shall I doe ?* Not one among her attendants old or yong, could answer her but in Teares and shrikes as impotent. The poore Duke attends ; the messenger dissembles their postures till he was got farther off. Ere long home, was the Queene come, and how full by this time she was of his Reply to Mr. Mountague, a new advance of the sentence shewes ; a Groom comes up at 8, or 9, at night to know what he should do with the Dukes two Horses : the Comptroller was come with a charge to put them out instantly : The Clowne pleaded, *To morrow would be time enough ; Now 'twas too late :* with a great oath or two, the yong Comptroller replies, *Yes, and I shall be out of my place ere morning.*

The resolutions on Munday of the Duke were to give way to this Passion ; and in order to it since his verball Passe

was given him on Saturday night, *Doe what you please: onely see not my face*: he would not be so neare his Mother (all the while hee was providing necessaries wanting for a *Germanie* journey,) but retire to Mr. *Crofts* his house a while, a little out of the way, whence he might beg a grant to bee admitted to take leave. The Queen heares of this also: checks *Crofts* for now seeming willing to receive him, whom shee has often commanded to invite. The like penaltie almost lay on him if he lent him his house: he tells the Duke, and submits however to his pleasure. The Duke thanks him, but would not displease her so much: and so resolves after Dinner, when the Queene of France was to come, (and it would bee uncomely for him to bee in the house, and not waite on her; as in his Mothers lodgings hee might not) to goe over the water and visit my Lord *H.* but even in that there would be a danger to the good Lord from *London*: yet considering there was great odds betweene his and his Brothers presence, hee adventured, though the deliberations made it somewhat over late: but there grew on an occasion, that the next night he was to lie there also, for there was no longer staying in the *Palais* royall

The Lord and his Lady cannot refuse (a double exile, for his Fathers and his owne Religion, and for his owne crime loyaltie) to admit such a Guest, while hee can provide for his Voyage, for which t'was presum'd he could find but two Horses, and the relikes of his new-given 10 l. for the monthly privy purse.

We were last night in some apprehensions too of danger by reason of the situation of the house, alone in the utmost *Fauxbourgs*, from either the zealots welwillers to the horribly and notoriously disappointed; or from the disrellish of the Courts that might happen. But all is well to day, saying that his abode there is not yet so known, but that
divers

divers of each French Religion thinke hee remov'd from the *palais* to the *Jesuites* College: all things being there so confidently ready long agoe, and the desires of both Queens so concentrically tending to that designe, even since the peremptory commands of his Brother from *Coloigne* triplicated to him, and seconded with divers since.

December, 3,

On Munday the Queene had not forgot her severe threat and interdict to the Duke: yet having taken all the courses shee could finde in her owne Spheare, had it seems engaged the Queene of *France* to try once more her Authority with him. But the expectation of her comming to the *palais* was diversly interpreted, some imagined it was to make the Dukes peace; some that shee might retract his resolution by fresh assaults; some to shew him how little he must look for the favour of their presence: but his Highnesse could not endure the uncouthnesse of his confinement to his chamber, nor car'd much to hazzard the sight of the Queen of *France*, he had been so fearfully assaulted of late.

But so it was, that so soone as shee came, shee sent her son the Duke of *Anjou* to visit him, who returned with newes he was not at home: The Queene of *France* sent then his Governour to enquire where he was, and having heard, sent him immediately over to the Lord *M.* to labour to bend him to the Queens resolution for him, and the *Jesuites* College was vehemently press'd againe. To the Kings contrary command, the Marquesse (Duke of *Anjou*, his Governour) replied with the greatest advantage of his owne parts, that it belonged to the Queen to dispose of her son since his Fathers Death entirely; he disputed whether he was in his Brothers power, onely for being his Sovereigne: and the discourse growing now somewhat publicker, and the Lords joyning in with the Duke, the Marquess had now his march;

and the debating that ill favoured nicety of Authority betweene Queen Mother, and Brother King, was so agitated by the English, that the French Gentleman, a man of huge parts indeed, was put out of hopes of prevayling in his Narrand. The Queen, in confidence of her *Envoye*, expects he should bring her home entire newes of the change of the yong Prince his mind, and till almost 8. shee tarried for him there; but the report of the Discourse did soone satisfie her, no alteration could be made in his Resolutions.

The next day therefore a Report is rais'd how uncivilly the Queene of *France* her Message was receiv'd with affront, & the last step of alienation and distance between the Queen and her Son came to the height: The great Palace of *Cardinal Richelieu* is not big enough for these two great Hearts extracted from *Henry* the 4.

Since his departure all things are better then we imagin'd, save that the presumption they had of him heretofore is not yet worn away. It lasted to my knowledge till Thursday, in so great a strength of Tumour, that one of the French Ministers assured an Englishman that came to visit him, that the Duke was for certaine in the *Jesuites* College. The Duke had made a Resolution that would have confuted the very Relikes of that mistake, by an intention to have come every day to Prayers to us, but because that might perchance have aggravated the heat, and lookt like a fresh affront, it was advised to be omitted.

Wee begin now, since I began writing, to bee assured the Passion begins to abate: The Queen they say, ha's condescended to give him leave to go with my Lord of *Ormond*, and it is hoped may admit him to beg her blessing: which makes my Letter somewhat the shorter: and I presume you will be content to goe to the burying of past four circumstances as soone as may bee with the Vindication of the Dukes sincere and heroike constancy.

FINIS.